

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 1226

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RIDGEWAY.

Read 1st time March 1, 2006, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

5482S.01I

AN ACT

To repeal section 168.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to teacher certification.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 168.021, to read as follows:

168.021. 1. Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the
2 state shall be granted as follows:

3 (1) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it,

4 (a) Upon the basis of college credit;

5 (b) Upon the basis of examination;

6 (2) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by the state

7 board with advice from the advisory council established by section 168.015 to any

8 individual who presents to the state board a valid doctoral degree from an

9 accredited institution of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting

10 association such as North Central Association. Such certificate shall be limited

11 to the major area of postgraduate study of the holder, shall be issued only after

12 successful completion of the examination required for graduation pursuant to

13 rules adopted by the state board of education, and shall be restricted to those

14 certificates established pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section;

15 [or]

16 (3) By the state board, which shall issue the professional certificate

17 classification in both the general and specialized areas most closely aligned with

18 the current areas of certification approved by the state board, commensurate with

19 the years of teaching experience of the applicant, and based upon the following

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

20 criteria:

21 (a) Recommendation of a state-approved baccalaureate-level teacher
22 preparation program;

23 (b) Successful attainment of the Missouri qualifying score on the exit
24 assessment for teachers or administrators designated by the state board of
25 education. Applicants who have not successfully achieved a qualifying score on
26 the designated examinations will be issued a two-year nonrenewable provisional
27 certificate; and

28 (c) Upon completion of a background check and possession of a valid
29 teaching certificate in the state from which the applicant's teacher preparation
30 program was completed; **or**

31 **(4) By the state board, under rules prescribed by it, on the basis**
32 **of certification by the American Board for Certification of Teacher**
33 **Excellence and, at the discretion of the state board, certification by any**
34 **other teacher certification organization recognized by the federal**
35 **government as an approved provider of teacher certification.**

36 2. All valid teaching certificates issued pursuant to law or state board
37 policies and regulations prior to September 1, 1988, shall be exempt from the
38 professional development requirements of this section and shall continue in effect
39 until they expire, are revoked or suspended, as provided by law. When such
40 certificates are required to be renewed, the state board or its designee shall grant
41 to each holder of such a certificate the certificate most nearly equivalent to the
42 one so held. Anyone who holds, as of August 28, 2003, a valid PC-I, PC-II, or
43 continuous professional certificate shall, upon expiration of his or her current
44 certificate, be issued the appropriate level of certificate based upon the
45 classification system established pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.

46 3. Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the state shall
47 be based upon minimum requirements prescribed by the state board of
48 education. The state board shall provide for the following levels of professional
49 certification: an initial professional certificate and a career continuous
50 professional certificate.

51 (1) The initial professional certificate shall be issued upon completion of
52 requirements established by the state board of education and shall be valid based
53 upon verification of actual teaching within a specified time period established by
54 the state board of education. The state board shall require holders of the
55 four-year initial professional certificate to:

56 (a) Participate in a mentoring program approved and provided by the
57 district for a minimum of two years;

58 (b) Complete thirty contact hours of professional development, which may
59 include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum; and

60 (c) Participate in a beginning teacher assistance program;

61 (2) (a) The career continuous professional certificate shall be issued upon
62 verification of completion of four years of teaching under the initial professional
63 certificate and upon verification of the completion of the requirements articulated
64 in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

65 (b) The career continuous professional certificate shall be continuous
66 based upon verification of actual employment in an educational position as
67 provided for in state board guidelines and completion of fifteen contact hours of
68 professional development per year which may include hours spent in class in an
69 appropriate college curriculum. Should the possessor of a valid career continuous
70 professional certificate fail, in any given year, to meet the fifteen-hour
71 professional development requirement, the possessor may, within two years, make
72 up the missing hours. In order to make up for missing hours, the possessor shall
73 first complete the fifteen-hour requirement for the current year and then may
74 count hours in excess of the current year requirement as make-up hours. Should
75 the possessor fail to make up the missing hours within two years, the certificate
76 shall become inactive. In order to reactivate the certificate, the possessor shall
77 complete twenty-four contact hours of professional development which may
78 include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within
79 the six months prior to or after reactivating his or her certificate. The
80 requirements of this paragraph shall be monitored and verified by the local school
81 district which employs the holder of the career continuous professional certificate.

82 (c) A holder of a career continuous professional certificate shall be exempt
83 from the professional development contact hour requirements of paragraph (b) of
84 this subdivision if such teacher has a local professional development plan in place
85 within such teacher's school district and meets two of the three following criteria:

86 a. Has ten years of teaching experience as defined by the state board of
87 education;

88 b. Possesses a master's degree; or

89 c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as approved by the state board
90 of education.

91 4. Policies and procedures shall be established by which a teacher who

92 was not retained due to a reduction in force may retain the current level of
93 certification. There shall also be established policies and procedures allowing a
94 teacher who has not been employed in an educational position for three years or
95 more to reactivate his or her last level of certification by completing twenty-four
96 contact hours of professional development which may include hours spent in the
97 classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the six months prior to or
98 after reactivating his or her certificate.

99 5. The state board shall, upon an appropriate background check, issue a
100 professional certificate classification in the areas most closely aligned with an
101 applicant's current areas of certification, commensurate with the years of
102 teaching experience of the applicant, to any person who is hired to teach in a
103 public school in this state and who possesses a valid teaching certificate from
104 another state[,] **or certification as contemplated under subdivision (4) of**
105 **subsection 1 of this section;** provided that the certificate holder shall annually
106 complete the state board's requirements for such level of certification, and shall
107 establish policies by which residents of states other than the state of Missouri
108 may be assessed a fee for a certificate license to teach in the public schools of
109 Missouri. Such fee shall be in an amount sufficient to recover any or all costs
110 associated with the issuing of a certificate of license to teach.

111 6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial professional
112 certificate a fee, to be deposited into the excellence in education revolving fund
113 established pursuant to section 160.268, RSMo, for the issuance of the career
114 continuous professional certificate. However, such fee shall not exceed the
115 combined costs of issuance and any criminal background check required as a
116 condition of issuance.

117 7. Any member of the public school retirement system of Missouri who
118 entered covered employment with ten or more years of educational experience in
119 another state or states and held a certificate issued by another state and
120 subsequently worked in a school district covered by the public school retirement
121 system of Missouri for ten or more years who later became certificated in
122 Missouri shall have that certificate dated back to his or her original date of
123 employment in a Missouri public school.

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